# The Initial Comprehensive Health Assessment (30 day exam) Job Aid

### **Background**

Children in out-of-home care are considered a vulnerable subpopulation of children (Leslie, et. al., 2003).

- Studies suggest that children in foster care have medical, dental, behavioral, developmental, emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health problems in numbers substantially higher than those of the general pediatric population (Steele & Buchi, 2008).
- Research indicates 30% to 80% of children in out-of-home care have a chronic health condition, with an estimated 25% of children having three or more chronic health conditions (Leslie, et.al., 2003; Ringeisen, Casanueva, Urato, & Cross, 2008, p. 232;).

A taskforce convened in 2000 by the Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services to address the healthcare needs of Wisconsin children in out-of-home care indicated in its Legislative report "within thirty days of the child being placed in custody, a comprehensive physical and behavioral assessment should be made. Case planning which specifically addresses the unique needs of each child should also be performed within this period" (DHFS, 2001, p. 3).

Subsequently, Wisconsin Administrative Code HSF 56 Foster Home Care for Children enacted in March 2002 states:

"Within 30 days after the date that the child is placed in foster care, the foster parent shall arrange for medical and dental examinations of the child in accordance with the schedule of the HealthCheck program" (Wisconsin DCF, 2002, p. 29).

### **Comprehensive Assessments**

All children entering out-of-home care are eligible, and required, to receive an initial comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of initial placement *regardless of the date of the last well-child exam*. Comprehensive health assessments are critical to detecting health risk factors, obtaining relevant health information, and identifying health conditions for children entering out-of-home care.

The initial comprehensive assessment is completed by the child's primary healthcare provider and includes:

- A comprehensive health and developmental history (including anticipatory guidance).
- A comprehensive unclothed physical exam.
- An age-appropriate vision screen.
- An age-appropriate hearing screen.
- An oral assessment plus referral to a dentist.
- Appropriate immunizations.
- Appropriate laboratory tests (i.e., lead testing).

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- An age appropriate developmental screening.
- A nutritional assessment.
- Age appropriate mental health and substance abuse screening (EPSDT Standards, 2008).

# Case worker activity

At the Family Case Transfer Meeting:

- Ask the biological parents the name of the child's primary healthcare provider
- Encourage the foster parents to continue healthcare services with the child's identified primary healthcare provider
  - Remind foster parents to request medical record transfers from the previous healthcare provider to the identified healthcare provider if a new healthcare provider is chosen. Consent for this request is addressed in the Authorization to Consent to Medical Treatment.
- Inform biological and foster parents of the requirement to complete the initial comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of entering out-of-home care

At the first face-to-face visit:

 Remind the caregiver of the requirement to complete the initial comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of placement

At the second face-to-face visit:

 Ensure completion of the initial comprehensive health assessment (30 day exam) by the child's identified primary healthcare provider

Upon confirmation of completion of the initial comprehensive health assessment:

#### Documentation:

- Record the required information related to the completed initial comprehensive health assessment in eWiSACWIS on the Medical/Mental Health tab for each child (see attached documentation tip sheet for details).
- Completion of the comprehensive health assessment must be documented on the Medical/Mental Health tab for tracking purposes.
- A case note reflecting completion of the exam *does not* meet the documentation requirements.
- Ensure all healthcare follow-up recommendations are completed as indicated.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

What is a comprehensive health assessment and why do children need one?

- The Comprehensive Health Assessment is the initial step in assessing and addressing the healthcare needs of children in out of home placement.
- Per Wisconsin Statute HSF56 all children entering out of home care must have a Comprehensive Health and Developmental Assessment completed within 30 days of placement.

Who performs a comprehensive health assessment?

- The comprehensive health assessment is performed by the child's identified primary healthcare provider. This provider is a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide health services to children.
- The healthcare professional who performs the comprehensive health assessment should continue to follow the child throughout his or her stay in out-of-home care as the primary healthcare provider (PCP).
- Whenever possible, extra efforts should be made to keep the child with the biological family's primary healthcare provider to support continuity of care for the child's benefit.

Does the Foster Care Health Screen meet the requirement for a 30-day assessment?

 The Foster Care Health Screen does not meet the requirements for an EPSDT comprehensive health exam and cannot be used in place of the 30 day health assessment.

Do all children need a primary healthcare provider?

- All children in out-of-home care are required to have an identified primary healthcare
  provider who will address and monitor their health needs as a component of ensuring
  overall health and wellbeing.
- If you need assistance in identifying a primary healthcare provider resource for children entering out-of-home care, please contact the BMCW Health Unit.

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#### Resources

- Early and Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) Standards (2008). Accessed 11/15/2010 from URL: http://www.brightfutures.org/wellchildcare/toolkit/states.html.
- Leslie, L., Hurlburt, M., Landsverk, J., Rolls, J., Wood, P., & Kelleher, K. (2003). Comprehensive assessments for children entering foster care: a national perspective. *Pediatrics*, 112(1), 134-142.
- Ringeisen, H., Casanueva, C., Urato, M., & Cross, T. (2008). Special health care needs among children in the child welfare system. Pediatrics, 122(1), E232.
- Steele, J.S. & Buchi, K.F. (2008). Medical and mental health of children entering Utah foster care system. Pediatrics, 122, 703-709.
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (2002). Foster home care for children. Wisconsin Administrative Code. Accessed 11/15/11 from URL: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/num memos/2002/2002-04 hfs56%20attachment.pdf

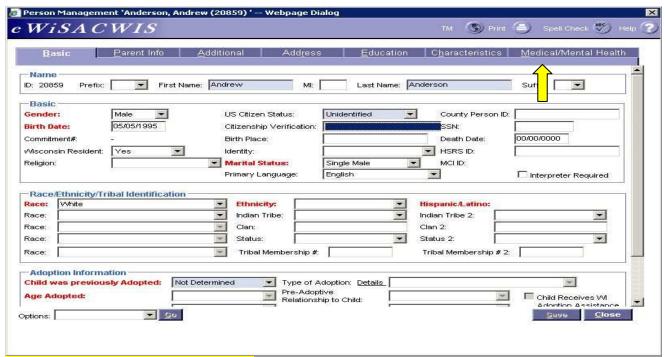
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# **Appendix A: WiSACWIS Documentation of the Comprehensive Health Assessment:**

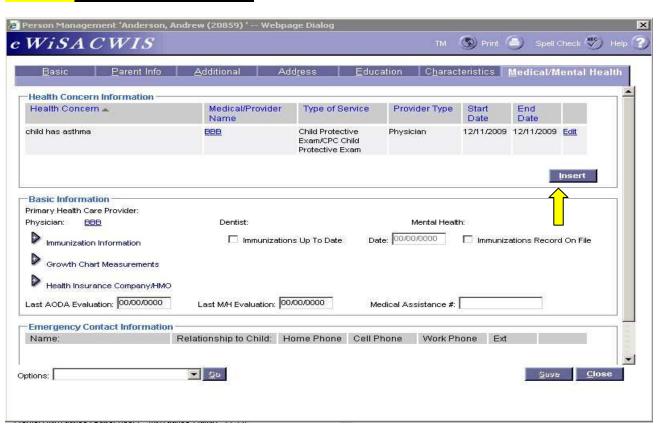


Enter the Case to be updated Select the Casehead Go to Participants tab

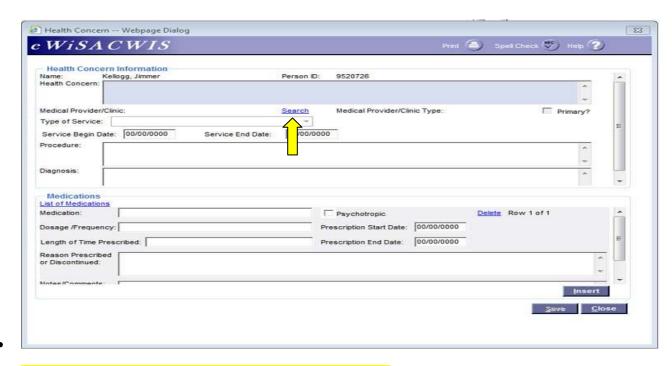
Click the **Child's name** for which medical information needs to be documented



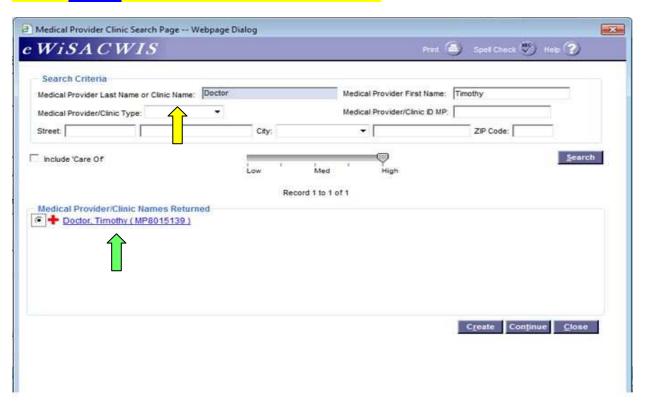
### Select the Medical/Mental Health tab



Click the **Insert** button displayed at the bottom of the Health Concern information page



### Click on **Search** to enter Healthcare Provider information

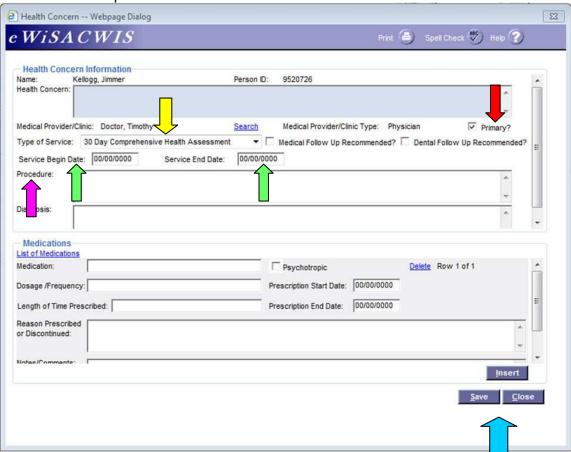


## To add/update a medical provider:

Enter information in the necessary fields on the Medical Provider/Clinic page Click the Search button.

### To update an existing medical provider:

Click the medical provider name link



Click on the box next to **Primary** if the healthcare provider is the **child's primary** healthcare provider.

### Go to Type of Service:

Select '30 Day Comprehensive Health Assessment' from the drop-down menu If medical or dental follow-up is recommended by the healthcare provider, click the appropriate box

### Enter date Service Began and Ended (same date)

Enter relevant information in the Procedure box as indicated (i.e. identified health concerns, follow-up recommendations, referrals, etc.)

Click on 'Save' to save entered information

Click 'Close' to exit Health Concerns